

persistent. I cannot suggest it more clearly in syllables than as *Chur*, *chur*, *chur*, *chur*, *chur*. The commas indicate pauses quite as long as the notes, each of which was about three quarters of a second in duration.

Perched on one of the topmost twigs of the tree, in a crouching attitude, the singer showed little of his form and nothing of his colors. I failed to identify him; and since I soon left Lakewood for the season, for a year the song remained a mystery to me.

The following April I heard it again, issuing from a tree-top within a few yards of the one from which I first heard it. Again I failed to identify the author of it, who kept amongst small branches in the tops of tall trees. After a day or two, however, he began to frequent small trees and shrubs. Then I discovered that he was a Chipping Sparrow.

During the earliest hours of the morning he sang at greater length than at other times. That is to say, the syllable *chur* was repeated a greater number of times before he took a rest. Often it was repeated a dozen times, occasionally even more. At no hour of the day was it uttered less than three times in succession.

This second year I heard the bird daily for several weeks,—until I left Lakewood again. The next year I did not stay at Lakewood late enough in the season to hear him. But early in the fourth spring I heard him there once more.

Direct evidence that a migratory bird—the same individual—has returned to the same locality for several years is not frequently obtainable. Here appears to be such evidence. In the present case, too, the bird returned to the same spot, and was only to be found within an area of about two acres.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

The Towhee Nesting in Bushes.—On June 12, 1906, I found in Cochi-tuate, a village of the town of Wayland, Mass., a nest built in a sapling white pine, at the top. This nest may have been three feet from the ground. The pine was within twenty feet or so of a submerged bog, but was on a dry strip of thin scrub-growth, very open, within a few feet of an open wood-road. The nest was a rather bulky one made of dry miscellaneous stuff, including dead weed stalks, and was lined entirely with soft dead grass.

It contained two eggs;—palpably those of the Chewink or Towhee Bunting. I was unable to identify the nest and eggs by the presence of the owners, but Towhees were in the neighborhood, and there is no question in my mind as to the accuracy of identification. A few hours later, on the same day, I came to a similar nest, fully as bulky as a robin's, built in the first fork of a rather large red cedar on the edge of an open field bordered by a pine grove. Although shadowed by a taller pine, the cedar was practically in the open. The nest was not concealed by any foliage, but was as openly placed as the nest of a semi-domesticated robin in the low fork of a household apple tree. The nest contained four *indubitable* Towhees' eggs, and was about 5½ feet from the ground. The

parent Towhees soon came to the rescue and by their actions put identification beyond a shadow of question. This was also in Cochituate village, Wayland, Mass.

Mr. Brewster regards this double experience as especially noteworthy in eastern Massachusetts. He believes that a few instances of bush-nesting by Towhees are on record as occurring in central Massachusetts. Personally, through a lifetime of bird experience (off and on) in eastern Massachusetts, I have never met with nor heard of a case of bush or tree-building by the Towhee there. With us of eastern Massachusetts the Towhee has ever been the closest kind of a ground-builder, so far as I know.—FLETCHER OSGOOD, *Chelsea, Mass.*

The Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Breeding near Springfield, Mass.—In the July number of 'The Auk,' I reported the capture of a Rough-winged Swallow at Longmeadow near Springfield. Afterwards, not far from the place where this one was taken, three more were observed, and a pair of these were found to be breeding. The site of the nest was located in a ravine two hundred feet long, washed out a few years ago from a bluff twenty feet above the flood plain of the Connecticut River. This pair were successful in raising their young. I noticed that they flew low and did not pause in their flight, as do the Barn Swallows; they often came to feed their young through the woods adjacent to a portion of the ravine, flying not more than ten feet from the ground.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

The Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) Nesting in Rhode Island.—In April of the present year I was searching through a swamp in Washington County for Red-shouldered Hawks' nests and came upon some uprooted trees in a small area which was very wet and swampy. In looking over one of these stumps I found a last year's nest which from its location gave me a suggestion that a Water-Thrush might have nested there.

On May 20, in company with Mr. John H. Flanagan, I again visited the swamp and upon approaching the spot where I found the old nest I heard a Water-Thrush singing. A search through the swamp was begun for its nest and after examining nearly every stump, I found it with the female sitting closely. We approached within two feet of the nest, thoroughly examining her, and were fully satisfied that it was the Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). The bird would not leave when we struck the root and only left when I almost touched her with my hand, and flew into a tree within ten feet of us, and all the time we were there she was close by in clear view uttering a sharp chirp and kept her tail in motion like a Spotted Sandpiper's.

There were five eggs, incubated but three or four days. The nest was placed in a cavity in the roots about a foot above the water, which was